

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PORT A 00776 042133Z  
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 AID-05

PA-01 PRS-01 IGA-02 EB-08 /037 W

-----051227 028901 /23-12

R 042158Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4227

USIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT AU PRINCE 0776

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS: SHUM, SOPN, HA

SUBJECT: TEMPORARY ARREST OF REPORTER AND INTERROGATION OF PUBLISHER

1. DIEUDONNE FARDIN, EDITOR OF OUTSPOKEN INTELLECTUAL WEEKLY LE PETIT SAMEDI SOIR (PSS), WAS DETAINED AND TAKEN TO THE CASERNES DESSALINES FOR FOUR HOURS OF INTERROGATION ON OR ABOUT FEBRUARY 28, ACCORDING TO A RELIABLE SOURCE. THIS INCIDENT FOLLOWED DISTRIBUTION THE PREVIOUS WEEKEND OF THE FEBRUARY 26-MARCH 3 EDITION OF PSS IN WHICH FARDIN VOCIFEROUSLY PROTESTED THE FEBRUARY 10 DETENTION AND INTERROGATION OF PSS AND RADIO METROPOLE REPORTER JULES NICOLAS.

2. ACCORDING TO PSS, AT 4:30 THAT AFTERNOON NICOLAS WAS OBSERVING THE "ANIMATED" SALE OF EMERGENCY SACKS OF RICE "UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF A MINISTRY OF COMMERCE INSPECTOR." THE ARTICLE CLAIMED THAT THE INSPECTOR DEMANDED TO KNOW WHAT NICOLAS WAS DOING THERE, AND WHEN HE IDENTIFIED HIMSELF AS A PSS REPORTER, PROCEEDED TO ORDER HIS ARREST AND THE CONFISCATION OF HIS WALLET, I.D., TAPE RECORDER AND OTHER PERSONAL PROPERTY. ONLY AFTER A THREE-HOUR WAIT, HE WAS INTERROGATED AND FINALLY RELEASED AT 10:30 P.M. EXPLAINING THAT PSS IS PREPARING A REPORT ON THE RICE SHORTAGE, FARDIN THEN WROTE THAT THE ARREST OF HIS REPORTER WAS IN TOTAL DISREGARD OF THE HAITIAN CONSTITUTION AND ASKED FOR WHOM THE INSPECTOR WORKED.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PORT A 00776 042133Z

HE SAID THE WEEKLY WAS UNABLE TO FIND ANYONE WHO COULD IDENTIFY THIS "ANONYMOUS" OFFICIAL.

3. THE REST OF THE LENGTHY ARTICLE WAS DEVOTED TO A DEFENSE OF THE RIGHT OF JOURNALISTIC INQUIRY, AND CONCLUDED: "LIBERTY IS FRAGILE. ITS PROTECTION SHOULD BE A DAILY CONCERN. TO SACRIFICE IT, EVEN FOR ONE PASSING TIME, IS TO BETRAY IT, ABOVE

ALL IN A COUNTRY AS OURS WHICH HAS A LONG TRADITION OF ANARCHY.  
THERE WAS A TIME WHEN IN PORT AU PRINCE NEIGHBORHOOD PRISONS  
ABOUNDED. THE COURTS DIDN'T OPERATE. ARRESTS WERE ARBITRARY,  
TRIALS WERE RENDERED SPECTACLES BY CITIZENS WITHOUT TITLES OR  
QUALIFICATIONS. THAT WAS THE PERIOD WHEN TI BOBO SPREAD  
TERROR IN 'BOTH ENTRANCES TO THE CAPITAL' (TI BOBO WAS A TONTON  
MACOUTE WHO IS SAID TO HAVE CONTROLLED ACCESS TO THE CAPITAL  
FROM THE WEST AND TO THE NORTH)."

4. COMMENT: THIS ARBITRARY ARREST OF A REPORTER AND THE  
SUBSEQUENT INTERROGATION OF HIS PUBLISHER ARE THE FIRST SUCH  
INCIDENTS INVOLVING THE PRESS SINCE JEUNE PRESSE CO-EDITORS  
LUC AND BOB NEREÉ WERE CALLED IN, QUESTIONED AND RELEASED  
AT CASERNES DESALINES IN LATE JANUARY (PORT AU PRINCE 0429;  
PAO MEMCON FEBRUARY 2, 1977). RICE DISTRIBUTION IS SENSITIVE  
ISSUE INVOLVING CHARGES OF HOARDING AND PROFITEERING BY THE  
POLITICALLY POWERFUL. IF FARDIN AND LIKE-MINDED PROGRESSIVE  
JOURNALISTS PERSIST IN THEIR INVESTIGATIONS AND DENUNCIATIONS,  
GOVERNMENT MAY TAKE STRONGER PUNITIVE MEASURES WHICH IN  
TURN COULD NOT FAIL TO OFFSET GENERALLY FAVORABLE IMPACT OF  
RECENT PRISONER RELEASES. WE WILL MAKE THIS POINT IN  
APPROPRIATE QUARTERS.

ISHAM

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ARRESTS, JOURNALISTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 04-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977PORTA00776  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770076-1014  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** PORT AU PRINCE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770392/aaaadnex.tel  
**Line Count:** 85  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** dfb7adbd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 25-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3206669  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** TEMPORARY ARREST OF REPORTER AND INTERROGATION OF PUBLISHER  
**TAGS:** SHUM, SOPN, HA, (FARDIN, DIEUDONNE), (NICOLAS, JULES)  
**To:** STATE USIA  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkvgwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/dfb7adbd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009